

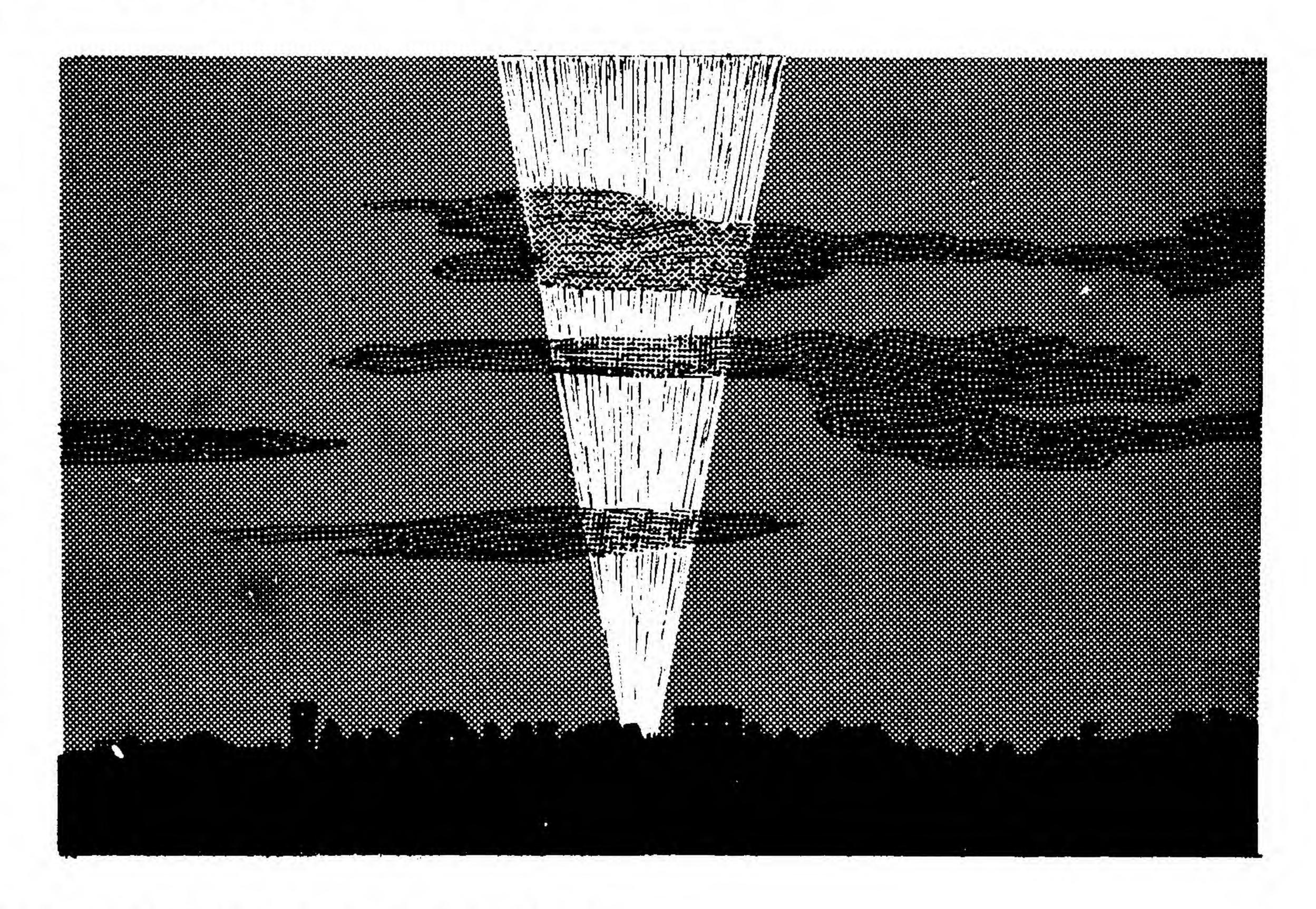
"the newspaper that functions as a muddy lake"

Previously Black Squirrel's Field Notes
Previously Anchor Watt Houseboat Digest
Previously Word Up Magazine

write to: Mothers News c/o Rhododenron Festival PO Box 29081 Providence RI 02909 • mothersnews.net • MN@mothersnews.net

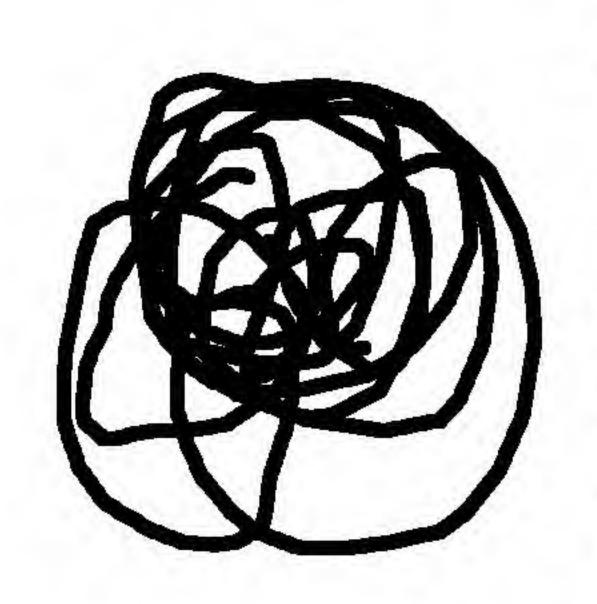
HOOP DREAMS

Welcome to January, the month named after Janus, god of doorways. Janus isn't the god of opening doors, or closing doors, or going through doors in any direction, just "doorways", so don't get stressed or feel oppressed, we're just going to hang out here in the doorway a minute. A doorway is the safest place if there's an earthquake, I think that's still the popular consensus. People in party situations often hang out by the doorway, and this used to bother me, this unwillingness to commit, but now I see that sometimes that's just the energy of the party, to hang out on the cusp of things, with a lowlevel eye towards everywhere at once. Marcel Duchamp had a special word for this doorway space- "infra-mince", or in English "infraslim"- the feeling of passengers on a subway going through the doors as the doors are closing, the difference between the volumes of air displaced by a clean shirt (ironed and folded) and the same shirt when dirty. "WHEN / THE TOBACCO SMOKE / SMELLS OF THE MOUTH / WHICH EXHALES IT / THE TWO ODORS / ARE MARRIED BY / INFRA-SLIM.". By examining these things, Duchamp hoped to form a sideways look at what happens when things move from the 2nd dimension of space to the 3rd, and extrapolate what might happen as things move from the 3rd to the 4th. Why use a window when there's a door? Why use a door when you could just walk through the wall? Hold on, let's hang out here for a sec (Why?) (No Reason).



RETURN TO FOREVER

Did you try this root beer? It's very delicious! When I was a kid I'd have rootbeer and it'd be like "OK, root beer, I like this", but now when it's good I'm able to parse out all sorts of different notes and flavors. I guess it makes sense that something that was made from a root would taste like a flower, or like a flower's shadow or something, but you don't think about that when you're a kid and you don't think that after years and years of patient study and casual consumption you will be able to pick out the complete life history of an exact instance of a beverage. What's unusual too is the delay that happens- yes, there's the coarse delay, where for 30 years of your life you only taste "Root Beer". But then after a while (for me, 30 years) there's the fine delay, where you take a sip and your brain says "root beer", then a second or two later it goes "vanilla / wintergreen / licorice / sarsaparilla", then "nutmeg / acacia / anise / molasses", then "cinnamon / clove / honey", "red spruce / dandelion / burdock", manioc, chocolate, fenugreek... It all happens at once but your brain plucks it apart, it's fascinating.



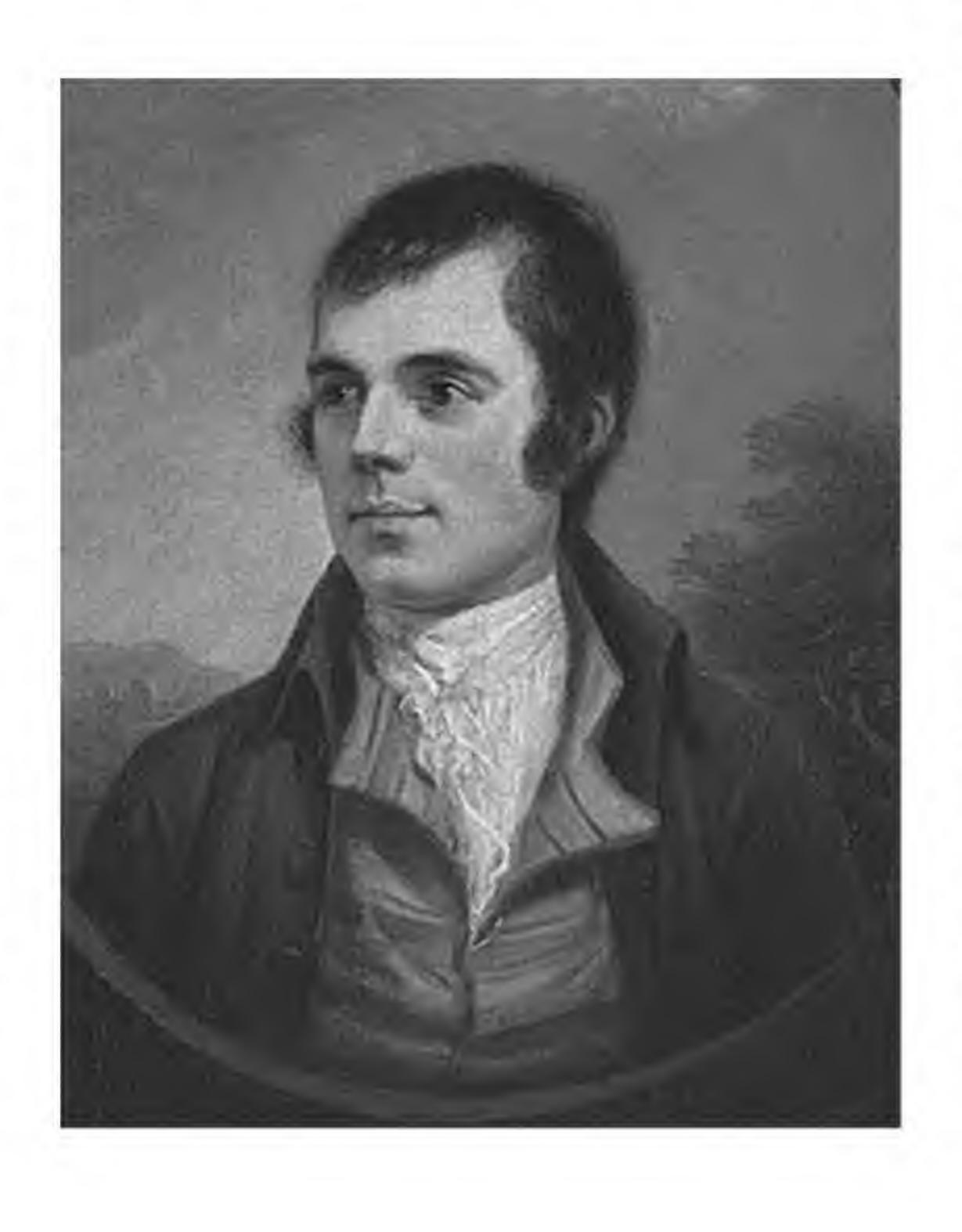
Wintergreen really is a key ingredient to root beer, that's why sometimes you drink coffee right after brushing your teeth and it's like a .5 second nostalgia feeling. We call that trans-mug sympathy.

One time my roommate Jonah got these huge used plastic tubs from the soda bottling plant, and one of them still had a little root beer syrup in the bottom. I wasn't sure if it was regular goop or motor oil, so I did what a kitten would do: first I looked at it, then I touched it, then I sniffed it, then I tasted it, then I ate it (the way of the kitten). well actually I didn't get all the way to eat because the taste tasted like actually nothing, just like slight pressure on my tongue, then a full second later it hit me like a plastic bat swung hard-ROOTBEERROOTBEERROOTBEERROOTBEERROOTBEER, I couldn't believe it- it was too intense to taste like anything at all at first!!!

Not sure if this is a proper model for a description of anything other than "a couple root beer experiences", but if it's 2012, if it's 1890, I don't care, if you're drinking a root beer, root beer tastes good, all at once. Is novelty escalating? Are we approaching Timewave Zero? Are we nearing the asymptote of Moore's law? Is this the apocalypse / the unveiling / the revelating? Is root beer delicious? I don't know! Except for the part about root beer, which is: yes! At least. As it says in a book, "you will separate the fine from the coarse, sweetly".

HOUDATS IN JANUARY

January 1st is New Year's Day. January 7th is Plough Sunday, when you bring your plough or tractor to church to get it blessed. January 9th is Coming of Age Day (in Japan), when we celebrate everyone who turned 20 years old in the past year. Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr day is January 16th, it's a day we remember the American civil rights leader who was assasinated by the United States governement in Memphis Tennessee, in 1968. January 25th is Robert Burns Night, the night we celebrate the great Scottish poet, as follows: Mingling; Host's Welcoming Speech / the Selkirk Grace; Entrance Of The Haggis / Address To A Haggis; supper; Immortal Memory; Appreciation; Toast To The Lassies; Reply To The Toast To The Lassies (AKA Toast To The Laddies); other toasts and speeches; singing of songs by Burns; Closing; Auld Lang Syne. At every toast, true statement, or thing you like, a swift draught of "the water of life" (Scotch Whiskey) is taken. January 26th is Australia Day.



SCENE REPORT

the A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library, Kodiak, Alaska (population 6,000): by Tatyana Yanishevsky

The Kodiak Public Library is bumping on Friday night. Open till 9pm every weekday, this library is a welcoming place for the fairly large transient community involved in commercial fisheries. Fisherman and fishery observers from the lower 48, various out of town marine biologists and fish counters employed by the state, and migrant cannery workers all frequent this place regularly. It's warm, it's free to visit, it's got books, magazines, and the internet. For folks living on a boat or in a bunkhouse or factory dorm, this library is a vital resource for information, communication, and entertainment. It's also a cheaper and healthier option than a bar.

Walk in through a turnstile, pass one of the many No Cellphones signs. Check in at the front desk to get a temporary library card with an address anywhere in the world for a \$10 deposit (returned to you when you terminate your membership). Sign up to use a public computer. The majority of visitors are here to use the internet: check facebook, buy things online you can't get in town, be in touch with folks back home thousands of miles away. There are only 10 computers, which is not nearly enough to meet the demand. Sign up for a computer, get a colorful pool float to hold onto and return once a computer becomes available. Play chess while you wait your turn. Boards and pieces are out on the tables for the public and get a fair share of use.

Cell phones are constantly ringing in the library. The offending sound is always the same: it's the ringtone that comes standard on the cheapest phone at the AT&T store- the only place to buy a phone on the island. Clearly most people opt for the cheapest one, especially if they are only in town for the season. Despite the written threats, no one has been asked to leave after a loud cell phone violation.

There's a private phone booth by the bathrooms – another indicator of the transient-friendly nature of this place. It's in a little soundproof room that houses a pay phone and a chair, with a "Public Phone" sign on the door. The booth is usually occupied, sometimes for a significant amount of time. The line that forms on the bench outside consists mostly of older fishermen who still don't have cell phones patiently reading the paper and waiting their turn.

The clothing style is pretty ubiquitous (myself included, though I opt for jeans instead of sweats): tall rubber boots- the kind that all fisher folk and factory workers wear- sweatpants, the occasional pair of jeans, always tucked into the boots; baseball caps, hooded sweatshirts, and waterproof jackets all with the names of fish factories and fishing boats. Guys off shift from Trident Seafoods, Island Seafoods, Alaska Pacific Seafoods, Ocean Beauty Seafoods. Men with bushy white beards, large hands, sea-salt-and-sun worn faces. Often the cannery workers still have hairnets on their heads and ear plugs hanging from their necks. Many are here to escape the factory dorms for a moment and use the internet. Top languages spoken this season: Turkish, Filipino, French.

Aside from an extensive 'Fisheries' section, this library has all the normal library things: books, magazines, videos, DVDs, music CDs, a couple of bulletin boards, both inside and in the foyer with announcements and fliers for events around town. Currently up: quit your addiction to nicotine, join chess club at Monk's Rock a book store, learn elementary Russian, enroll in classes on how to make your own bow for archery, enroll in GED classes. A notice stating that it is illegal to feed feral pigeons according to state law. A poster that shows a list of toxic shellfish, complete with drawings of fish that are crossed out with a big red X. An ad for an evangelical lecture, part of the Revival Series at a local Baptist church, complete with a photograph of the pastor, his wife, and son, so touched up that they look plastic. Children's film night, children's story time, children's learn-to-play chess, monopoly, scrabble, or connect four.









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"I can break 5 bricks, in a row, with my hand"

MOTHERS TOP TEN

in no order

1. Grapefruit against all odds- Can you believe it? As it turns out, starting December 2011 I enjoy eating grapefruit. I used to only like the color scheme and the name (considering that grapes are already a fruit). Now I enjoy regular enjoying it as well, how do you do. One thing I found out though is that grapefruit interacts with some drugs, including coffee, and I have to eat it at night or not at all, or it ratchets up the effects of the insanity dust they put in my standard coffee blend.

2. Asuna at Carpenter St, Providence RI- Arriving early, Asuna set up a beautiful array of actual toys on the floor, a nice circle hemmed in by multo different toy keyboards, with some sort of sampler/sequencer in the center, and a lamp from a child's bedroom. Well, pretty much everyone in the room agreed (before he played) that the set was probably going to be a wash on account of the set up was too beautiful/whimsical, that happens OFTEN. But it wasn't a wash, it was really really really good!!! Yes, it was everything rattling around in a frenzy, but also parts, solos, arcs, waves, trajectory, tension, and release. Not overcome by whimsy! Real sound and genuine natural moments! A+++

3. Bagging and boarding comic books - everything that isn't in the "shit" or "ultra shit" category gets a bag and a board. Regardless of comic size, bags and boards are GOLDEN AGE kid! it's always the GOLDEN AGE!!!

4. Actually fun playgrounds- After a brief but miserable spell in which playgrounds got too safe, it's great to see new playgrounds that look wicked fun!! There's one in Armory park in Providence that has a lot of cool stuff to climb on, and a cool rope webbed thing that you can get a couple people in and spin around in enjoyably fast, which is something I really enjoy! Me and my nieces went to a cool playground in Portland ME that had this MASSIVE rope tesseract to climb on, really cool!!! One thing I liked about both of these playgrounds is that they were full of stuff where you (an adult) look at it and say "what the hell is that supposed to be?", and the answer is "a cool thing to climb on or use somehow in some sort of play activity". Nothing was set in stone, figuratively speaking. Speaking literally everything was set in stone, or at least poured concrete. Also both playgrounds had stuff that you could fall from and get hurt- dealing with that possibility is an important part of growing up / being alive!

5. Mike Watt 54 years old Dec 20th. here's a nice pic of Watt and Jandek. Watt is the reason we wear plaid shirts.



6. Wikipedia page- A nice reader made us a wikipedia page! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothers_News! Well, it might get deleted for lack of strong secondary sources, so if you write for a magazine or newspaper, why not write a puff piece on Mothers News? It'd really help us stay in the game, and the article will be a breeze to write because of our award-winning charm. Available for interviews!

7. Mark Gonzalez video where he attempts to kickflip a bicycle- This is a seemingly impossible trick that definitely no one has ever done, and sure enough, Gonz does not land it or come anywhere close to landing it. But seeing him try, and discuss his motivation, is truly extraordinary and inspirational, in a way unlike any other media in the category Sports / Inspirational. "I Have The Desire To Do The Kickflip".

8. Olneyville Post office 02909- this is the best post office! the people working there are really nice, and very helpful, and are just a fun group of people! Everyone I've talked to agrees wholeheartedly- they're the best!!!!

future top ten:

1. "The Platform Master"- That's right, there's going to be a Nick Smith (Ulillillia) movie in 2012!!!! The trailer looks great, too! Nick Smith is a gamer, programmer, artist, and dreamer with a charm and quiet depth and seeming incorruptibility that is inspiring and infectious! He's kind of like Duchamp in that he's less an artist than a "respirateur", but seeing him go through life like it's a video game, quantizing and analyzing, but also powerleveling and finding little tricks... ahhhhh it's wonderful! SO PSYCHED FOR THIS DOC!

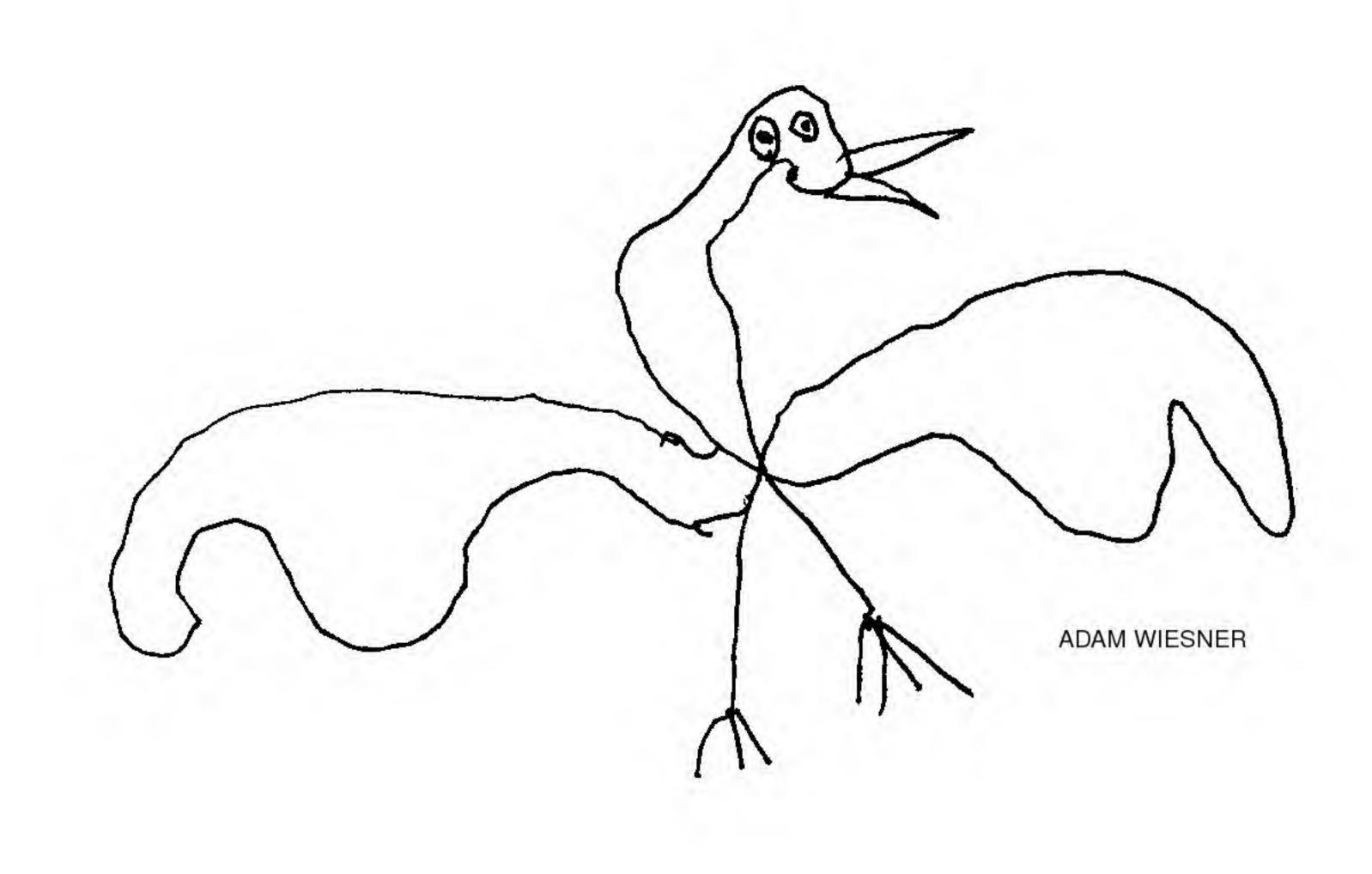
2. 2012 olympics / paralympics. the whole Mothers News office is abuzz! Who do you like in rhythmic gymnastics- Trofimova? Rizatdinova? Kanaeva? Kondakova? Charkashyna? Staniouta? Senuye? Maximenko? WHO WILL IT BE? UK culture secretary Jeremy Hunt says "Austerity calls will be ignored". #fuck

2012 minus top ten

1. Wenlock and Mandeville, official mascots of the 2012 olympic and paralympic games. Are you fucking kidding me? The mascots of the 2012 games are mutable gobs of iron with cameras for eyes!? A columnist for the Globe and Mail surmised that they are the result of a "drunken one-night stand between a Teletubby and a Dalek", and that's it in a nutshell- the strategic cutening of surveilance. While adults of the country find it distressing, "it has been reported that children of the target audience (5 to 15 years) find the duo enjoyable". in other words, they're playing the long game! This is the country that begat GEORGE ORWELL, OK? #orwell.







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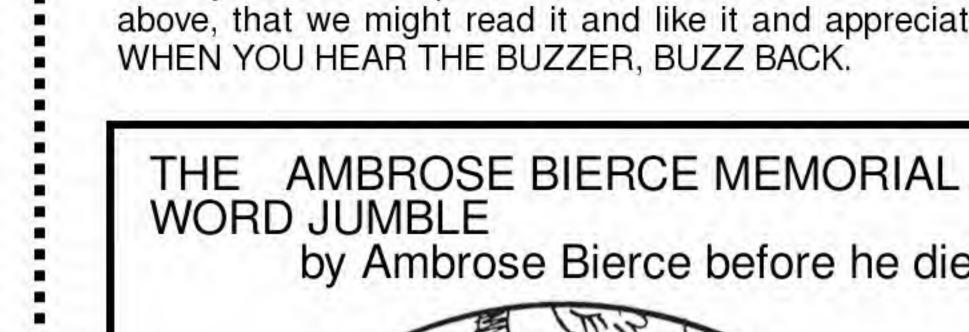
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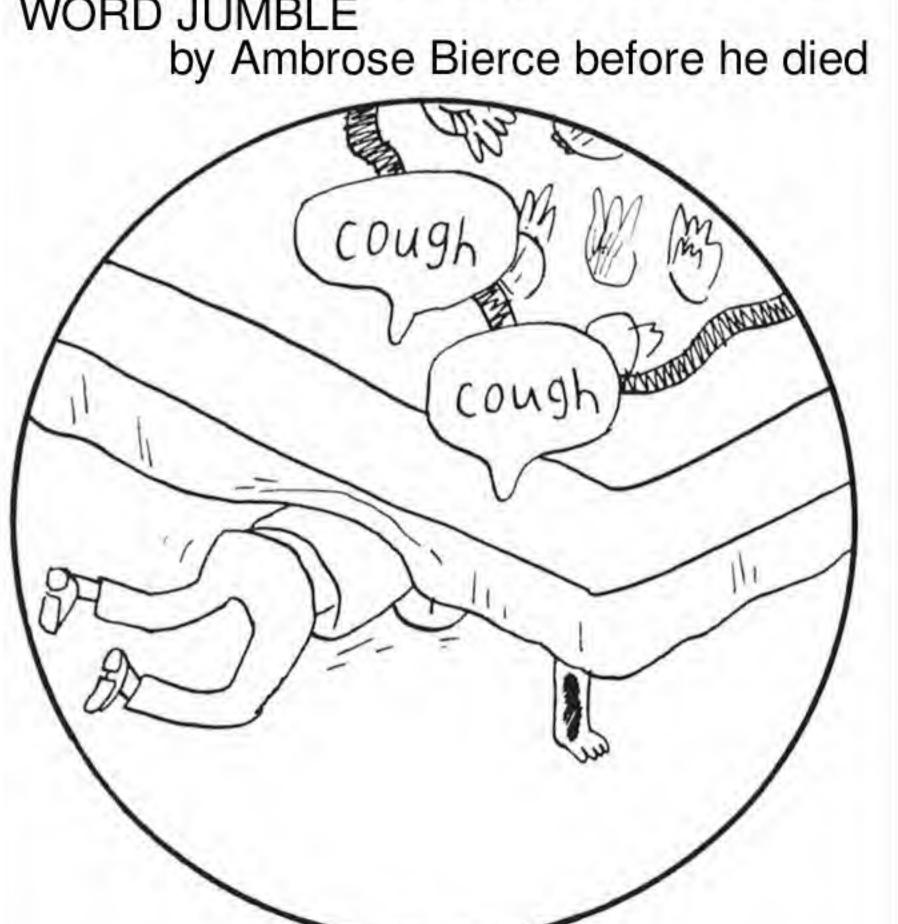
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Mothers News is free to the general public but NOT to people who make zines, comics, books, tapes, or whatever, for whom it costs 1 item. Not a joke. Please send your full, complete whatever to the address listed above, that we might read it and like it and appreciate it.





NAVTIY - The tribute of a fool to the worth of the nearest ass.

VUTIRSE - Certain abstentions.

SBIURBH - Worthless matter, such as the religions, philosophies, literatures, arts and sciences of the tribes infesting the regions lying due south from Boreaplas.

ast month's answers: ARMOR POLITENESS PREFERENCE

Trace this line onto a separate piece of paper and use it to make a new (not huge) drawing! Send a copy (or the original) to:

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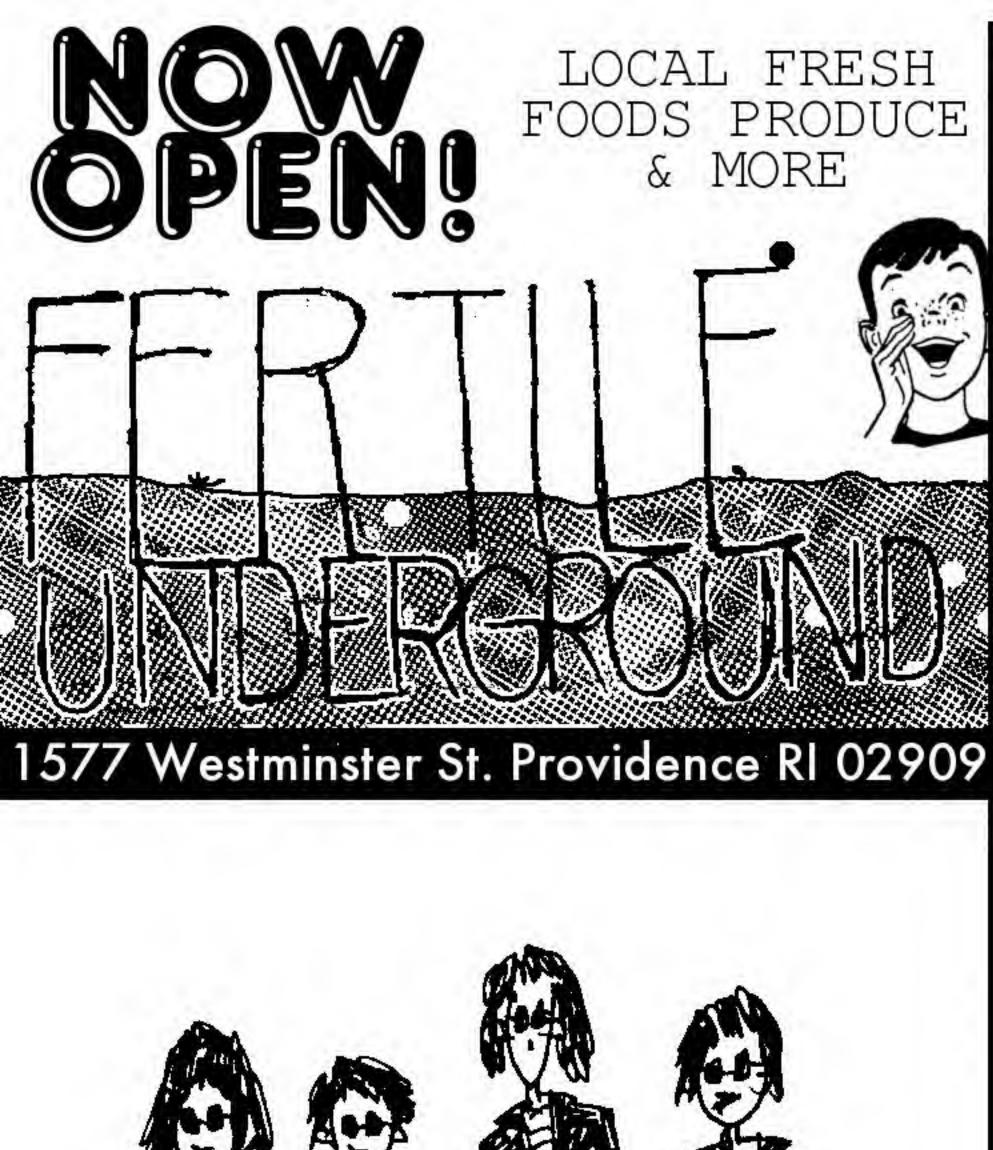
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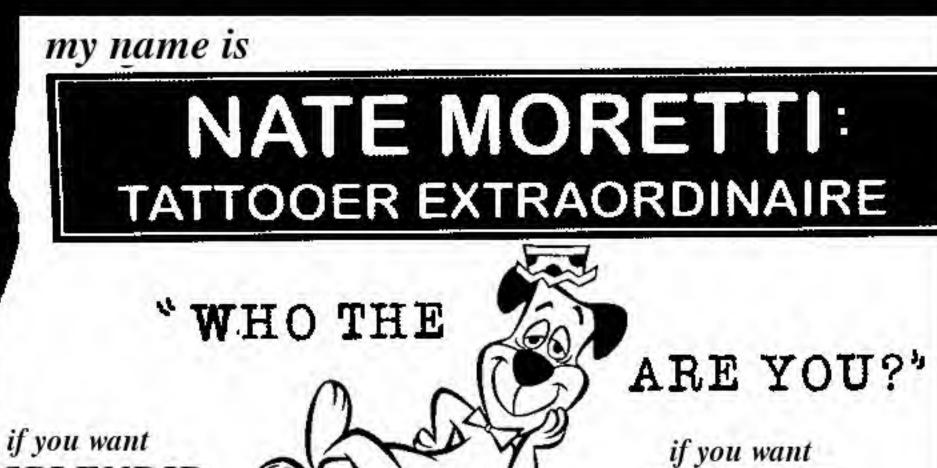






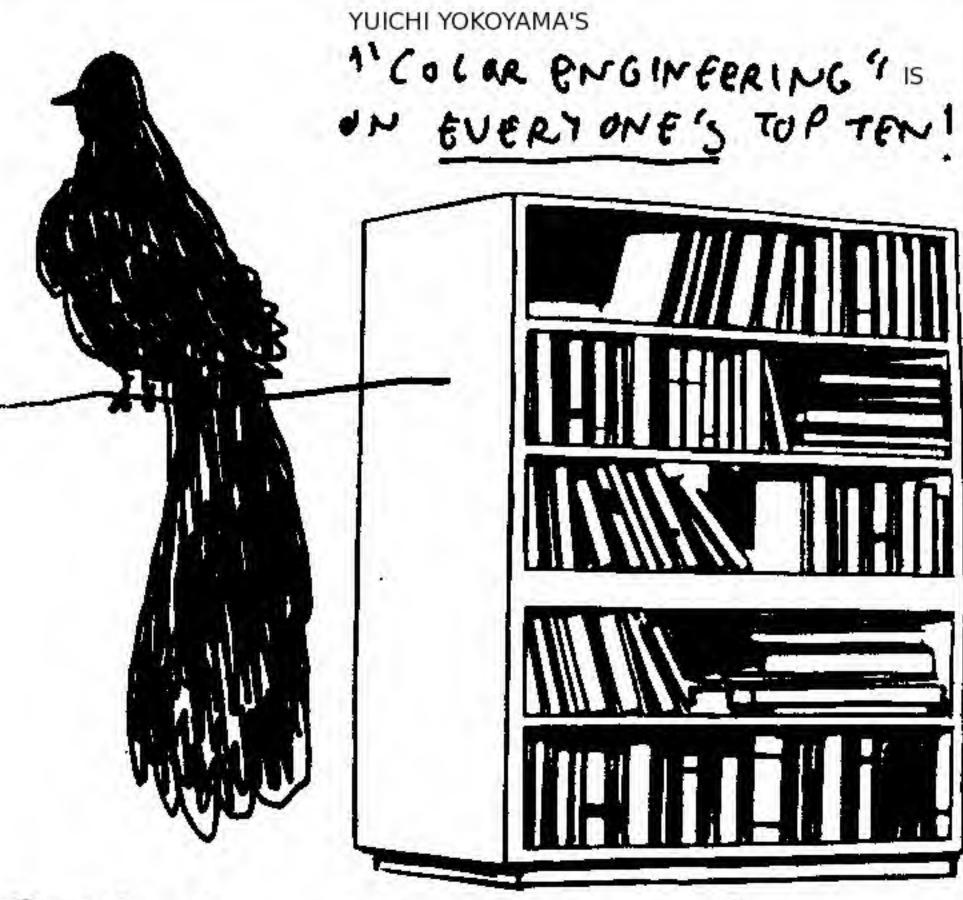
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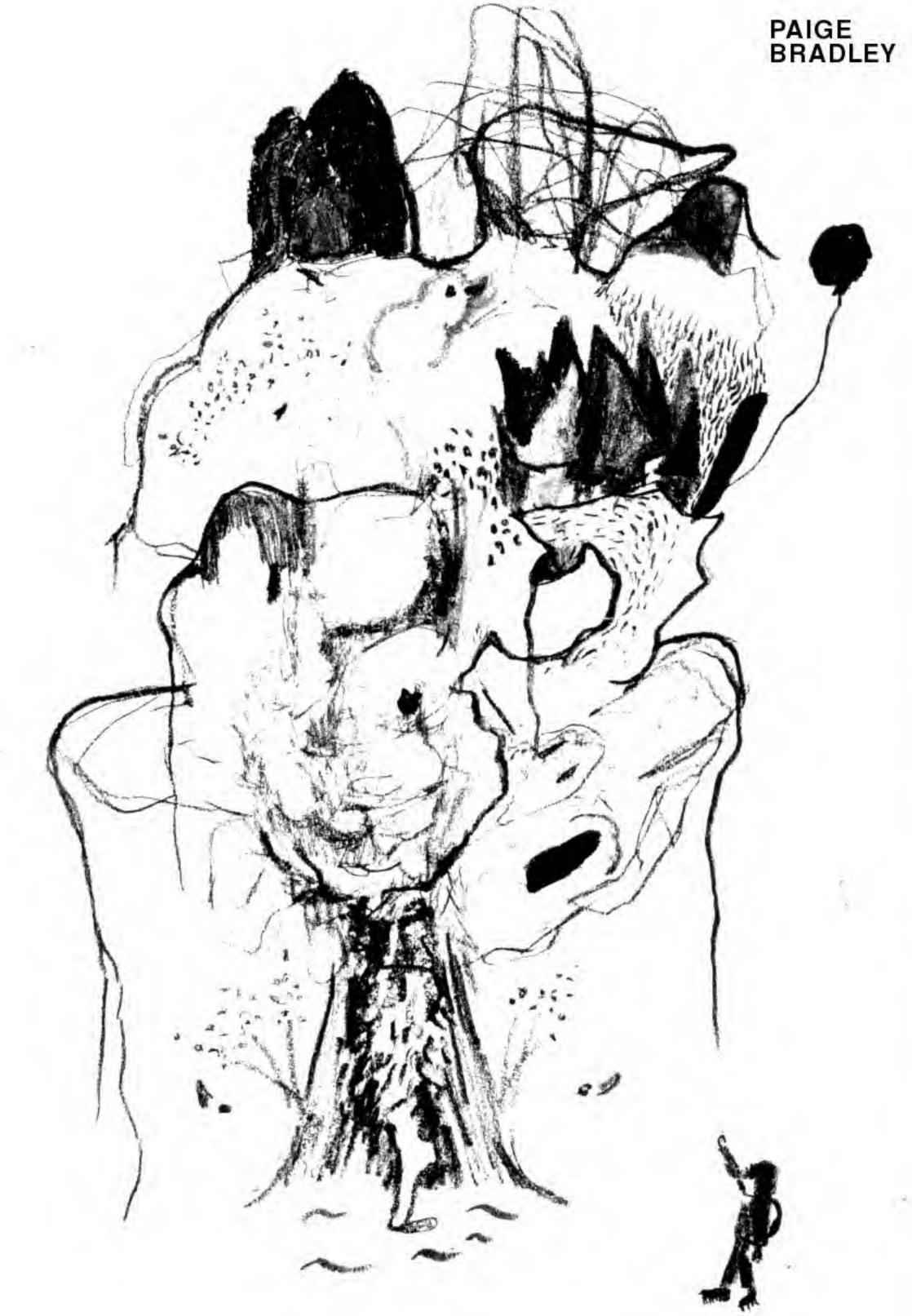
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ASK TOMATO BREAD

Dear Tomato Bread-How bad is shoplifting? Sincerely,

Gray Blobs

Dear Gray Blobs-

If you don't get caught, it's not bad. If you get caught, it can be bad. If you get caught a lot that's pretty bad. If you don't get caught for a long time, then get caught, that can be very very bad.

I don't know what manner of blob raised you, Gray Blobs, but it's a safe bet they didn't raise you to be a thief. That said, they also probably didn't raise you to sit around twiddling your thumbs and not acquiring the lipstick, hat, or candy bar you need to achieve your maximum potential. If you get caught we will chop off your hands. If you never do it, i have to ask, do you even have hands?

Shoplifting, like many other skills that call upon dexterity, artifice, and transgression, is the domain of Mercury, and as anyone who ever turned 28 around an astrology buff could tell you, Mercury = wild ride. So if you're considering getting into the field of shoplifting, bear in mind the other aspects and skills of Mercury: he had the gift of gab /in extremis/; he was fleet of foot /in extremis/; his planet is still to this day the hottest, the smallest, it has the fastest orbit, it's closest to the sun, and it has no natural satellites or substantial atmosphere. This is getting perhaps too esoteric to be useful but due to the combination of Mercury's high orbital velocity (around the sun) and low rotational velocity (around its axis), at certain points on the planet's surface the sun appears to rise, stop moving, then reverse course and go back to from whence it came. If that's the kind of planet you want to live on, shoplifting. But remember also: it's definitely a planet. Also: the thing with the hands.

TINTO'S

mato Bread

INVERTEBRATE OF THE MONTH

PYCNOGONID

these sea spiders' bodies are so small, they

keep parts of their guts and gonads in the

tops of their legs.

Dear Tomato Bread-I'm freaked out about the future, what do I do? -Peanut

Dear Peanut

Whenever overwhelmed, or feel get directionless, or overtired, or weary, or overwary, I like to think about being in elementary school and somehow a dog gets in the school and is just booking it through the halls. Just absolutely booking it. Sometimes I imagine myself as a kid, seeing the dog fly past an open door. Sometimes I think of myself as an adult knowingly letting in a dog that is lingering by an entrance. Sometimes am a teacher or janitor, chasing after the dog, getting angry but also laughing. Sometimes I'm the dog, sometimes I'm the infrastructure.

Hope this helps!

mato Buead.

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TINTO is a professional scientist and amateur

resurrectionst, currently living in North Carolina.

relevant to your life, you can use it to select a new name-- there are literally infinite methods of use. For disbelievers in astrology who see the benefit of being guided by a truly random block of text assigned to a specific time period, SOURCE WALL may prove especially useful.

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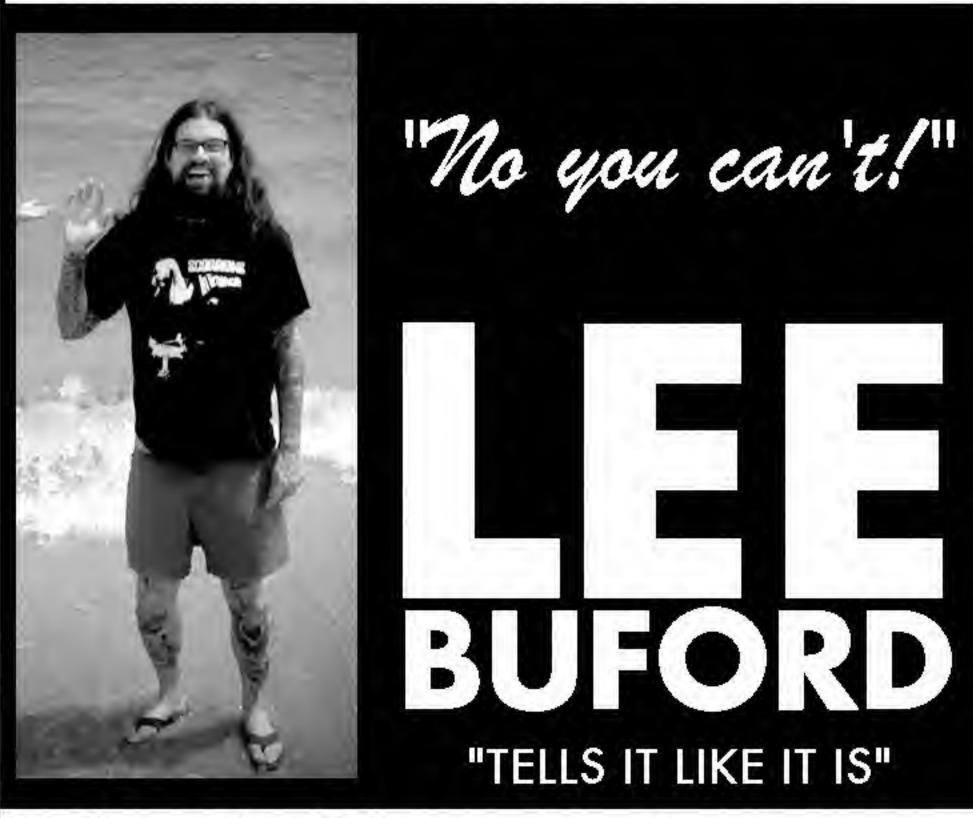
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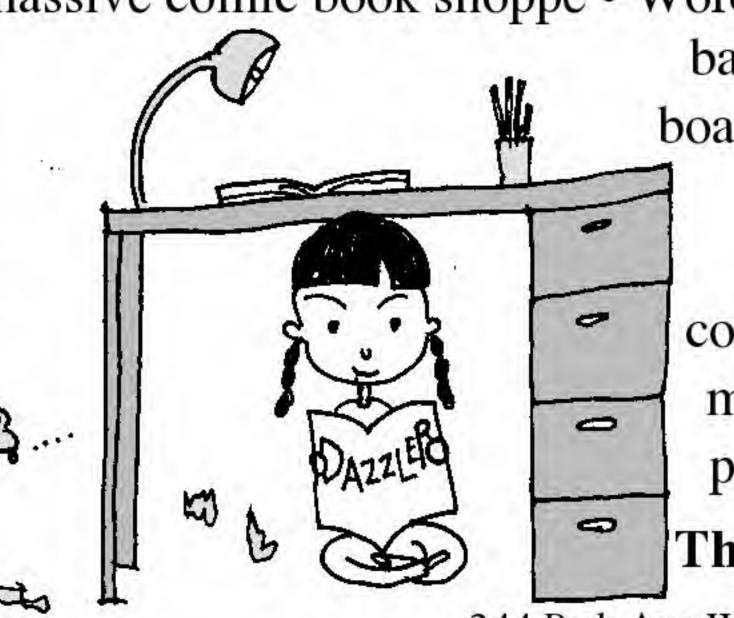
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


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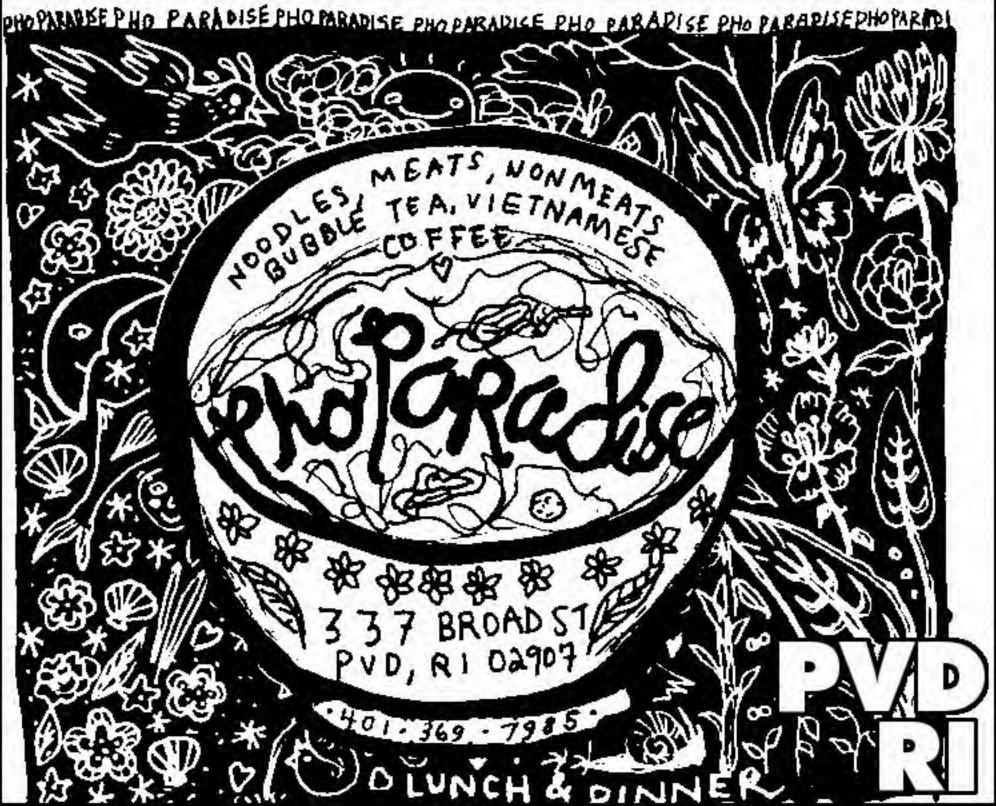


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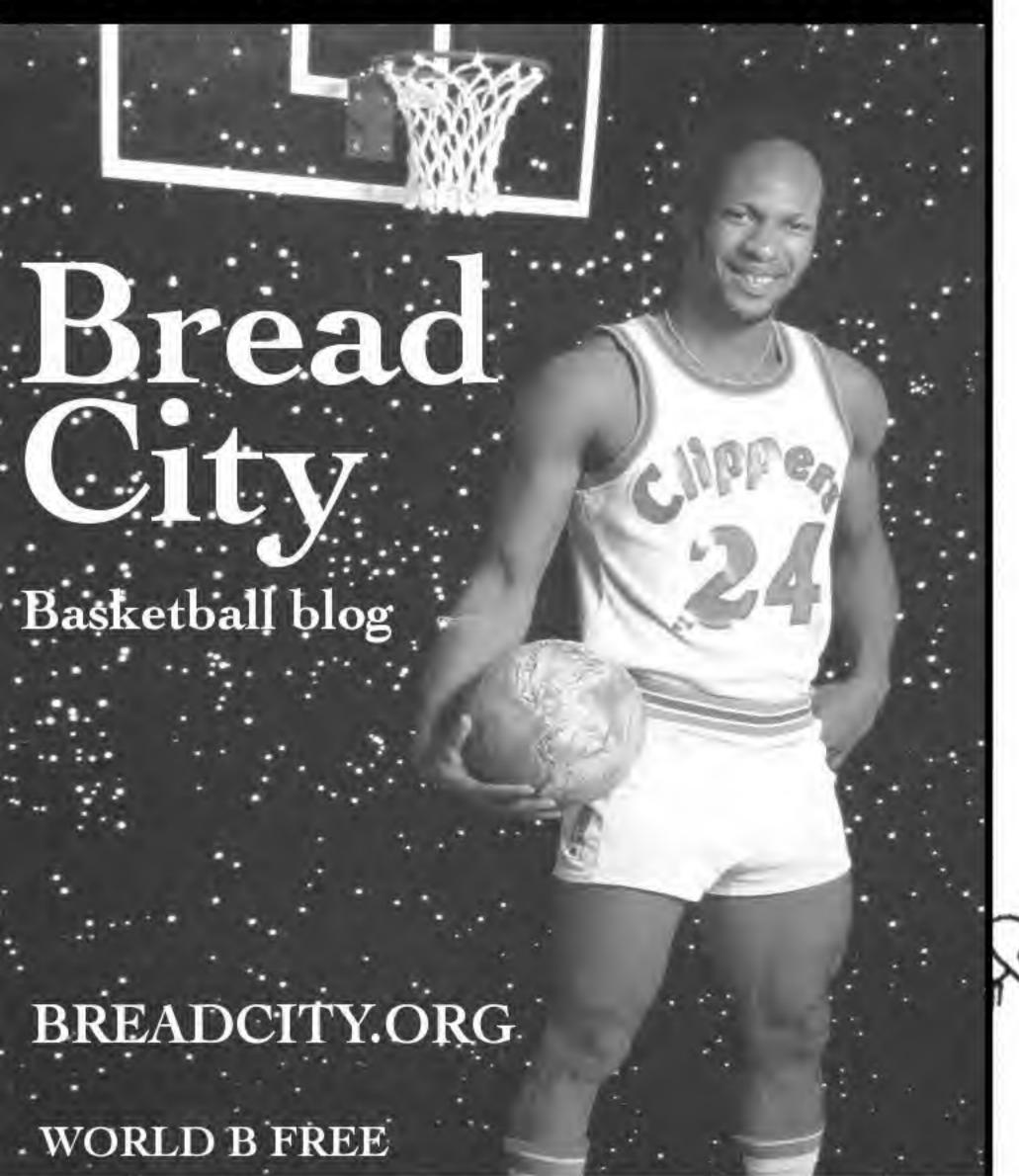


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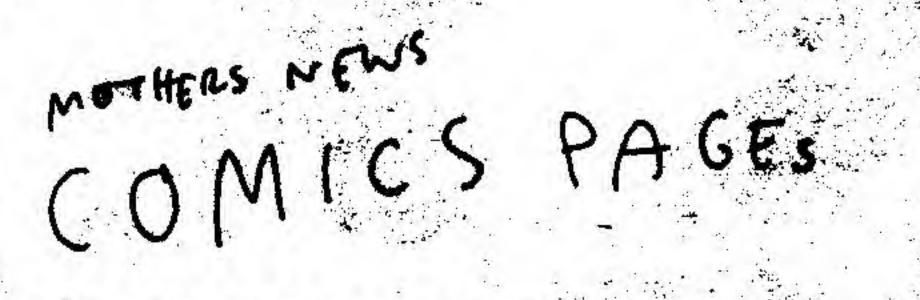
weirdo coffee shop at the 186 Carpenter St. office fridays

COTTE COTTE COTTE

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WITCH BEACH by Charles Forsman "Find Icky"



"MILITARY PRISON" MICHAEL DEFORGE

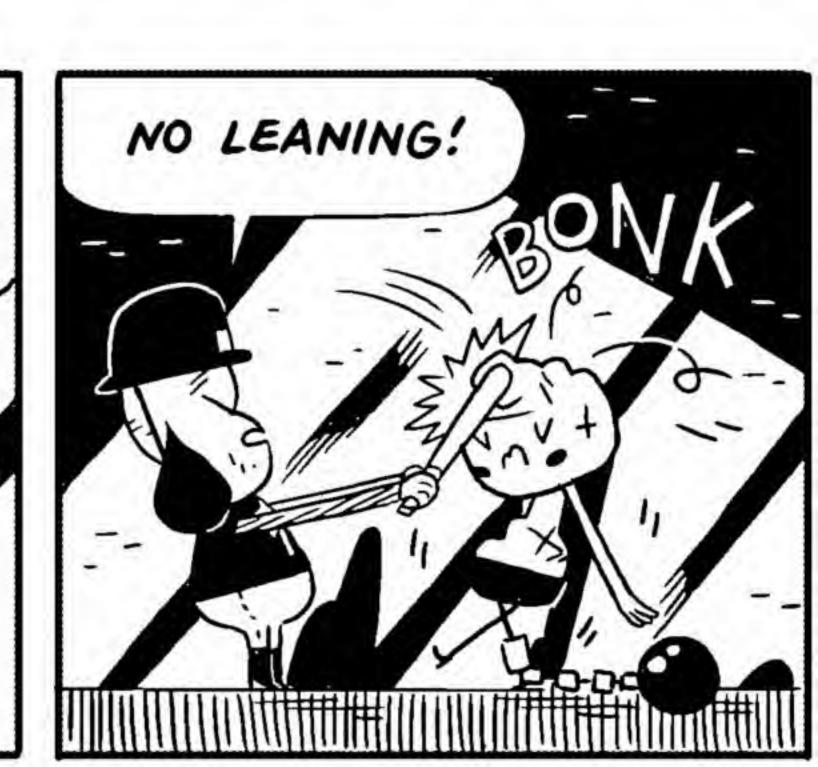
DO YOU THINK

I'M A MONSTER?

I ENFORCE ALL THESE RULES -NO SLURPING, NO HUMMING, NO
SINGING, NO SHOUTING, NO
READING, NO SNORING, NO



I DON'T HATE YOU. I HAVE
A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF
RESPECT FOR YOU, ACTUALLY,
IN THE GRAND SCHEME
OF THINGS, WE
EACH HAVE A
CERTAIN ROLE
TO FILL, AND



"THE SAINT OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN"

THE SAINT by Kate Schapira

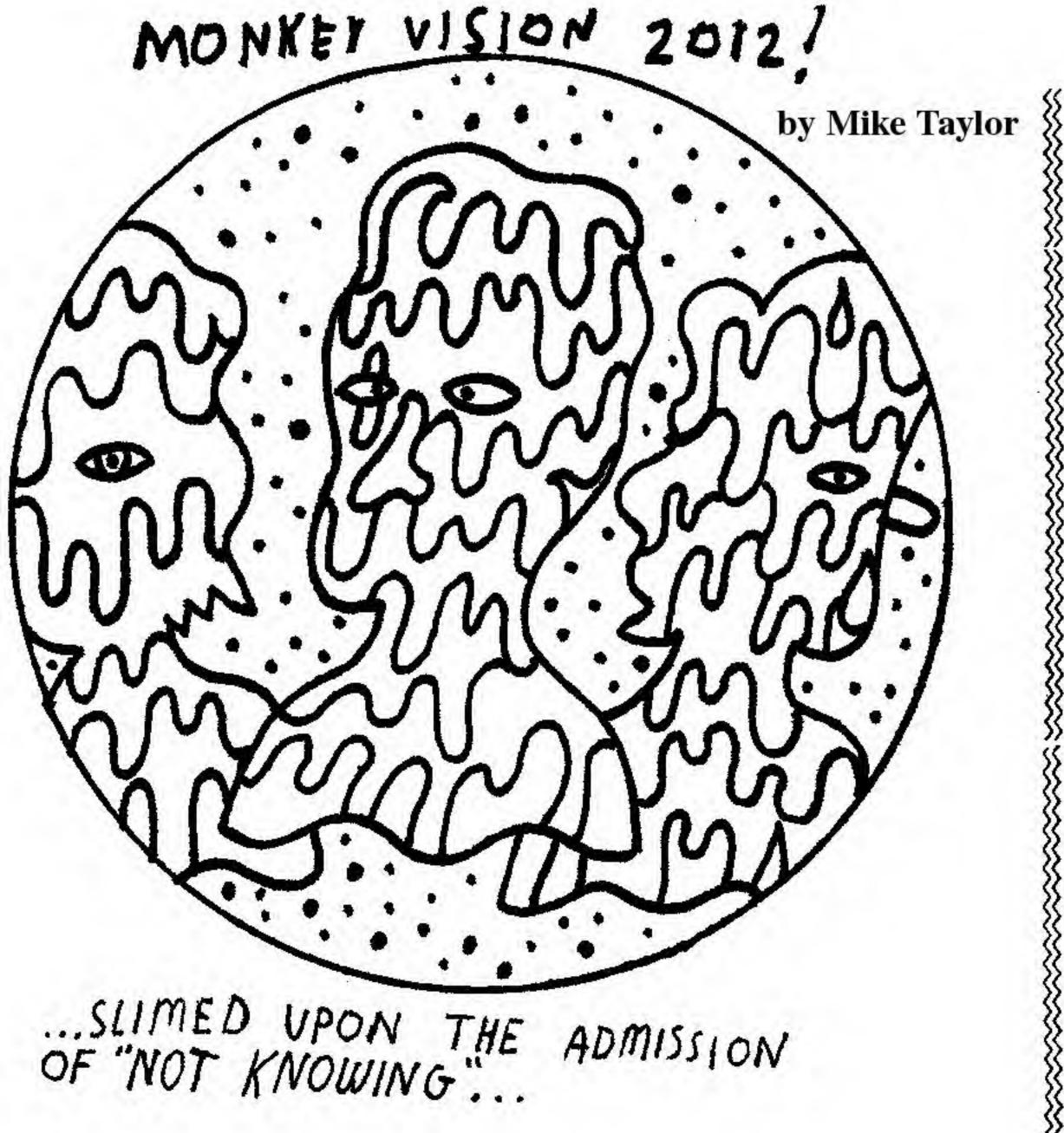
"Before we proceed, Brother, why do your sandals have to be that way?"

Necessity is the mother of divinity. Two years into a boy's college career he should be no bother, thinner, no longer a topic. "I think Ann and Charlie have been very patient with him, really."

Call him a slow joe. Call necessity the mother of intervention. Will he, being what he is, do harm, will he never do well. Bulking in his apron. Strings tie him to a version.







E. Z. Mark Makes Protest



1. MR. E. Z.-Look here, sir; what does this mean? You have been following me ever since I left the

THE SHADOWER-Mr. Mark, I'm a private detective hired by Mrs. Mark to follow and protect you from the wiles of the bunko-steeres and sharpers.

3. MRS. MARK'S VOICE OVER 'PHONE-Yes, it's

me. What is the matter with you, anyway? No,

No, No, No! I hired no man to shadow you. Cer-

tainly not. Now, for goodness sake, E. Z., don't tell

me you are about to be bunkoed again. There's

something wrong. Watch yourself. Good-by.

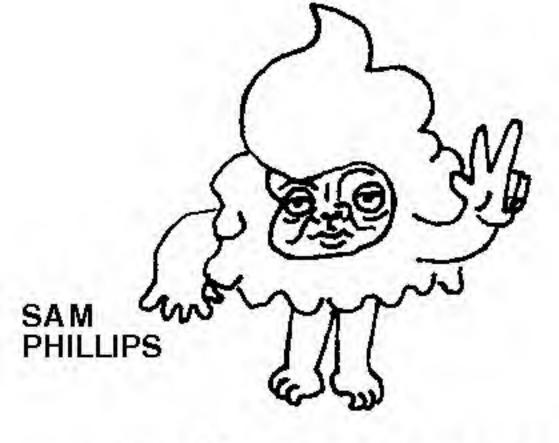


2. MR. E. Z.—This is an outrage! An insuit! I'll go right into this store and 'phone Mrs. Mark for the meaning of her insolent and uncalled for interference.

THE SHADOWER-Yes, sir; satisfy yourself that what I say is true. Let me hold your bag until you come out.



4. MR. E. Z. (rushing out of store)-Your statement is false. You are an- Why, where is that fellow! Ye gods! GONE! And with my bag containing one thousand dollars' worth of negotiable securities. WEOW! DONE AGAIN! DONE AGAIN!



THÉÂTRE DE CARTON presents "PURPLE RAIN"

by Charlotte DeSedouy



MR. JACK.



HAIRIES by Jackie H Curtiss

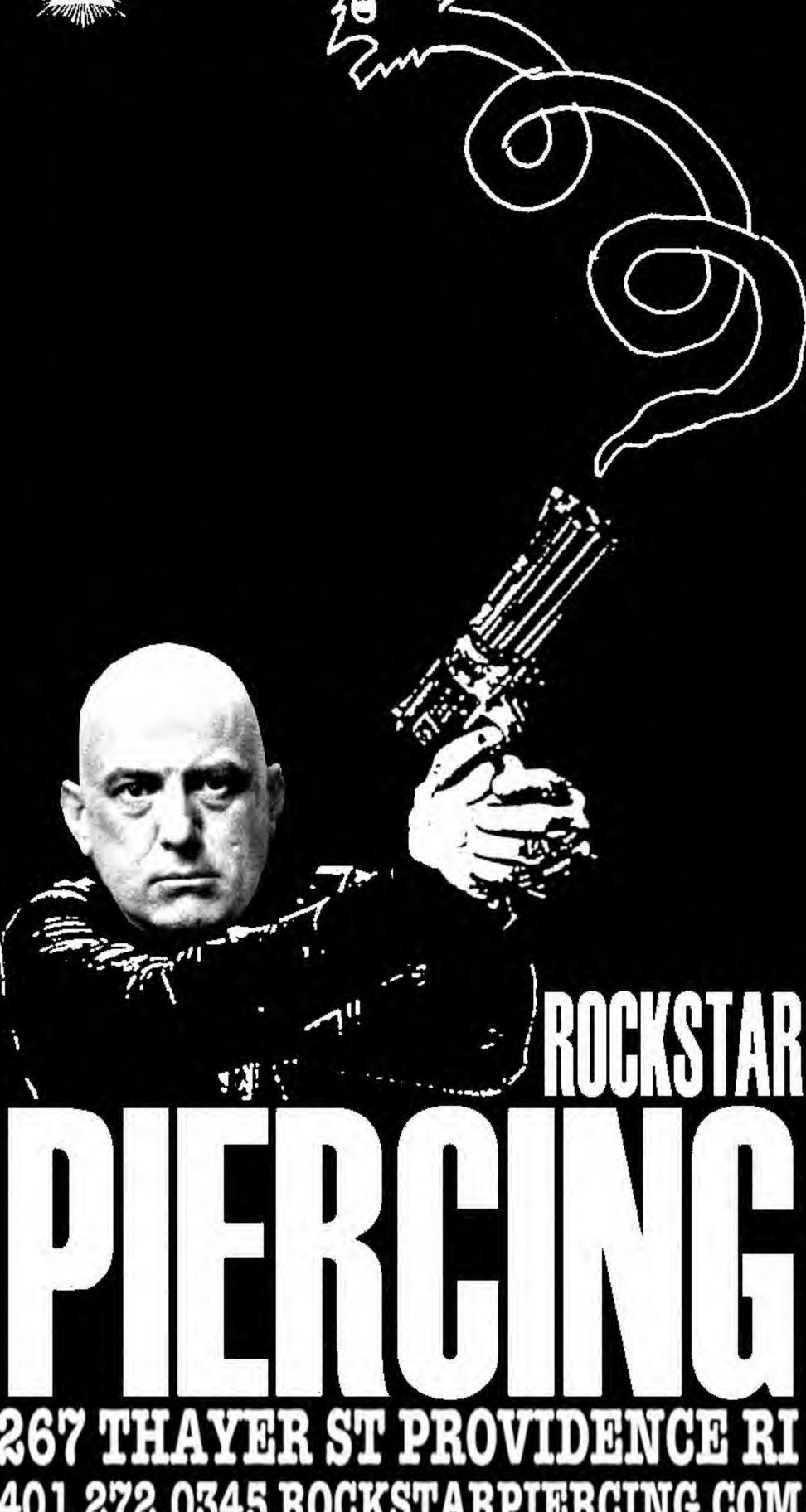


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STOP IN AND WARM UP!

NEW PAINTINGS

OPENS 9/3/12

EVEN A DEVILISH MONSTER LIKE THE KAPPA ENJOYS NICE:

ENTREES SOUPS SALADS SIDES BEERS

WINE BURGERS FRIES BRUNCH STUFF

TOM BUBUL& MICHAEL W HALL

VEGAN FRIENDLY

SPACE 1026

MONSTERS OK

CIRCLE A CYCLES

STRONG LIGHT BIKES BUILT ON PURPOSE

1 SPEED 3 SPEED ∞ SPEED

KUSTOM JOBS

SHOUTOUTS

<3 <3 <3 JE9 yr totally the light of my life <3 <3 <3 -OH

HAPPY BARFDAY ROB AMERICAN u got good style -

SHOUTOUT TO CARMEN from JENINE: full and speedy recovery

Song dedication H1 H4T to Disbooya: "Golden Girls theme"

GOOOOOOD LUCK DAVID RILEY! SEE YOU WHEN YOU VACATION IN RHODE ISLAND!!! --KATDOG

TO GET YOUR SHOUTOUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE GO TO MOTHERSNEWS.NET \$3 100 CHARACTERS POSITIVITY ONLY

PSSST! Mother's Good Word this month is "QUINCUNX". If anyone asks you for "Mother's Good Word", that's what it is. And if you need a semi-public password for any reason, and you need it to expire in a month, please use Mothers Good Word.

GOSSIP SECTION by Josephine Mendes

Hey sorry I missed last month's deadline, I was... I can't tell you what happened. I can't tell you what I did and what happened, I can't (for a different reason) say why, and I definitely DEFINITELY can't say WHY I can't say. Let me play the "mental exhaustion" card, and I'll see you at next year's cruise. Unless you see me first... ITEM: I saw DIANA JOY at the juice bar the other day, she had sunglasses bigger than a panini on! Actually each lens was the same size and approximate shape as a panini, I have photographic proof. Or I did until my telecom locked me out of my service for (I think) texting "my butt looks like 80 pounds of plastic explosives glued to the undercarriage of a Mazda Miata parked in front of a Dave & Busters in this video" to my cousin. Live and learn... or don't... Yo I did a double take the other day when I saw DAVE FISSURE at the bus stop scrolling though an iPod touch! On closer inspection it turned out to be a small piece of teak with a candy wrapper glued to it. He was like "Does this look real? I'm trying to not talk to assholes on the bus". Yeah Dave, it looks totally real... No problem... ITEM: Philly's DAWN RIDDLE seeing riding a razor scooter for a non-trivial period of time... ITEM: a dude at the MARK LORD show in New York last month seriously yelled "Play Freebird" at the end of the set. Pretty much everyone got some manner of chuckle out of it, from some angle or another. It was a rainbow of approaches to human stupidity... Hey remember BEN SCHECHTER, inventor of the Schechter Variation (weird chess move named after him, this is real)? He has a video production team now, that's the new scam, but secretly his biggest project is trying to get #dogwave to trend. What is #dogwave? It's a music style that's a combination between "looking like you might be smiling" and "licking balls / it's not a big deal / I'm going to keep doing this"... Good luck I guess? Cats and dogs, living together... madness... Hey, speaking of madness (the condition) if you say someone's "like a chocolate covered pretzel bite", that's good right? You can affectionately call someone a salty snack petname as long as it has a sweet component, right? Someone tell DAN CLASHMAN that, because he won't return my messages and he's acting like a real regular full size pretzel right now. ITEM: BRIAN CHICKENTAIL and JUNGLE HONG had a great art show last month at the new Buonaccorsi +Agniel Gallery. It was cool, and the opening had nice beer and wine, but there were NO SNACKS! What's up with that? Not even a plate of strawberries or little cheese parts or ritz mini peanutbutter sandwich crackers OR stoneground wheat thins ORRRRR triscuits (or pecan sandies or halvah or carrot sticks, stuffed mushrooms, pizza bagels, thumbprint cookies, salami roll-ups OR deviled eggs) or olive bread. What's up with that? You can't serve beer without food, it's unhealthful! A nice beer is almost a small sandwich, I tried to tell myself that, but it was really hard to carry on without some sort of handsized multiple food item. And hey speaking of finger foods, JOHNNIE NIVLOC got a job at some place (congratulations), and MICKEY ZICKY has been selling scrap metal (...), and BOTH OF THEM are spending ALL THEIR NEW MONEY on HOT DOGS! You guys seriously need to cut it out!!!! Look at JOE DEGEORGE-- dude's got that wizard money coming in from all directions, and sure he drops a nice \$3 on a spicy brat now and then but that's NOW AND THEN not ding dong who's there hot dogs (always)... Ahhhh do whatever you want... Hey, GOOD LUCK!

CORRECITONS UH OH lots of mistakes in the last issue, mostly spelling and capitalization-- hopefully no one out there read the a proper noun and thought it was just a regular humdrum everyday noun. the biggest problem was the watch review, which was right on EXCEPT for the exact model number, which is the W-71, and NOT, as reported, the WL-71. I think the confusion came about because of WLVI TV56, beloved UHF station of our youth. Last issue we said that pizza is commonly cut into 12 slices, and we got some letters saying 8 is the default slice count. Our findings indicate that this is primarily a geographic breakdown- in places where the slice dominates, 8 slices per pie is common. In places where it's more of a "whole pie" scene, it's more likely 12. Considering that our article was about community and fellowship, we stand by our numbers.